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most useful and too often despised and misnamed 'War Monster.' Here is a world over-burdened with defectives. Here also are the blood-thirsty multitudes clamoring for gore. Here, too, are many causes for war-fierce disputes, unsettled and old grudges unforgotten—plenty of old bones of contention to be pulled from their hiding places and re-gnawed.

It is n't hard to find a cause for war. In a dispute over baggage at Liverpool, the writer heard an American say to an Englishman, with great emphasis and adjectives, which it seems best to omit, that he was as good as 'him' any day. Consummate audacity! An American telling an Englishman on his own ground that he is as good as 'him'! Surely here is a cause for war. Baggage delayed three days between London and Liverpool! Here is another cause for war between those two nations—pretended friends, but aching for a scrap. Here are armies and navies longing for action, and men for rank. Now, why don't the governments take up these appalling insults? Only one barrier stands in the way, viz.: the sacrifice of our finest and healthiest young men.

But, now, supposing we could send forth the classes above named, why, then any cause for war might be welcomed by both contending nations. There are plenty of reasons why the United States and Canada should cross swords—boundary lines, fishery questions, the sheltering of slaves in '61 to '64, etc., etc. Of course it would not be fair for the whole United States to rise up against Canada, but suppose each nation could select, say fifty thousand of their diseased, sick, and criminal classes on either side, and let them slash away, what a blessing would this be for both of the contending nations. They would get rid of these burdensome classes, and at the same time settle the dispute. In such a case they could fight to a finish—until the last man was dead, and in such a wise and beneficial method of warfare as this, of course the side that lost the most wretched victims would be the winner.

Grand discovery! And this method would apply to States as well as nations. Illinois and Wisconsin, for example, could settle these cutting, humiliating, and never-to-be-forgotten disputes, which have arisen, and which will arise, over foot-ball contests and the like. In this way great battle grounds could be constructed, and gazing points securely fortified, from which the delighted spectators, who could afford to pay the large fee which could well be collected for such a thrilling, entertaining scene, could behold those miserable outcasts hew each other to pieces. If men will pay twenty and thirty dollars to witness a pugilistic contest, how much more would they give for such a scene as this? What roads and bridges, and libraries and colleges could be constructed and built in this way! What churches, too! and in behalf of foreign missions we would never need to beg again. I tell you the old-fashioned 'Trial by Battle' is n't in it with this new Christian method!

But suppose we should use up all of the defectives and the demand for war not be lessened? you ask. In reply to this possible drawback, I suggest that we keep our licensed saloons running day and night, and in this way we never need fear a lack of recruits, no, not if we should war without ceasing.

Cheer up then, ye poor hopeless outcasts, ye halt and maimed and blind and diseased and insane and criminal.

Your sun of hope is rising. Mine eyes have seen the beauty of the coming of its beams. Drop your staffs, ye cripples, and grasp the shining hilt. Lay down your fans, ye weaklings, and take up a sceptre instead. Exchange at once, your striped suits and wheelbarrows, poor criminals, for gun and boots, brass buttons and cocked hat. Why languish on beds of sickness, and in pain or in prison cells, when war offers liberty, health and glory everlasting? What if you are a poor sick consumptive? The long healthy march, the camp life, the thrilling bugle call, the actual conflict, will set your stagnant blood in circulation as a thousand galvanic batteries could never do, and in a short time you would be restored into perfect health. What if you are insane? All men, it is said, are insane when in the fight. If therefore you are insane to start with, why, so much is gained. What if you have been convicted and are serving a life sentence for killing a single man? The government will make you free by constituting you its lawful muderer. What if you have only one leg or arm or eye? Uncle Sam has plenty of legs of wood, and eyes of glass, and arms of steel. If you have only one leg to start with so much is gained, for then you have only one to lose. Do n't you see that this is a gain to yourself, the surgeon, and to the government? Indeed it may be that the man who goes into this kind of warfare with one leg will come out with two, and the one who goes in sick will come out well, and he who goes in insane will come back a very Solomon for wisdom, in the eyes of the applauding multitude. What a grand prospect!

Of course, the teaching of the New Testament is against this grand enterprise. But what of that? Lots of things opposed to Christ's teachings prosper just the same. In this practical, common-sense age it will not do to let these considerations stand in the way. I can even now imagine that I hear cranks quoting scripture, and hurling texts in our faces; as for instance, "The well need not a physician, but they that are sick"; "Ye then that are strong ought to bear the infirmities of the weak", etc. But what are the sick and weak good for? Nothing. They are a burden to themselves and others. Nay, nay, Plato's teaching, and not Christ's, is the thing for this age. "Backward, turn backward, O time in your flight." Blessed be war! Mobilize your hosts. Three cheers for the consumptive, the criminal, the insane and the wooden-leg brigades. Fix swords! Attention! Forward! March!

PRINCETON, ILL.

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